



Watershed Protection

Water Department
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Background

The San Diego Water Department services 1.2 million customers, including the largest concentration of military bases in the United States. It is one of the ten largest water suppliers in the nation – providing 206 MGD per day. By the year 2030, the City's population and economic growth is projected to increase water demands by about 55 million gallons a day (MGD) or 25 percent over 2002 levels.

The City presently imports approximately 90% of its water supply from northern California and the Colorado River. Local reservoirs owned and operated by the City supply about 10 to 15 percent of need. The City has 9 reservoirs which have a storage capacity of 415,000 acre-feet of water. The reservoirs are located in five (5) watersheds throughout the County. The watersheds encompass an area of roughly 900 square miles, only about five (5%) percent of which are owned by the city. Ownership of lands adjacent to watersheds has proven to be a cost effective means of protecting water quality. The following projects are cost effective steps that, with additional funding, could be implemented:

General Watershed Protection: There are a number of governmental organizations (GO's) and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) that are acquiring property in the watersheds where the City's reservoirs are located for conservation purposes using grants which require matching funds. The Water Department would like to participate in these acquisitions but lacks the funding. The Water Department seeks a sum of \$5,000,000 to use for acquiring watershed property located near City reservoirs for conservation purposes. These funds can be leveraged by receiving matching funds from GO's and NGO's.

Miramar Reservoir: The perimeter road around the reservoir is in need of replacement. Additionally, urban run-off from a subdivision on the southeast side of the lake requires attention. Replacing the road and diverting the urban runoff from the subdivision above the lake to the storm drain system could address both problems. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$2,000,000.

Otay Reservoir (Upper and Lower): Located in a rapidly developing area, the Otay facility is largely unprotected and can be accessed from all sides. The project proposal calls for a

perimeter fence that limits access. Signage would also be installed that emphasizes the need for water quality protection. Project cost is approximately \$900,000.

State Strategies

- Identify and pursue Proposition 13 and 50 funding from water quality improvement programs administered by the State Water Quality Control Board and Wildlife Conservation Board.
- Identify and pursue security funding from Proposition 50 and Homeland Security funds.